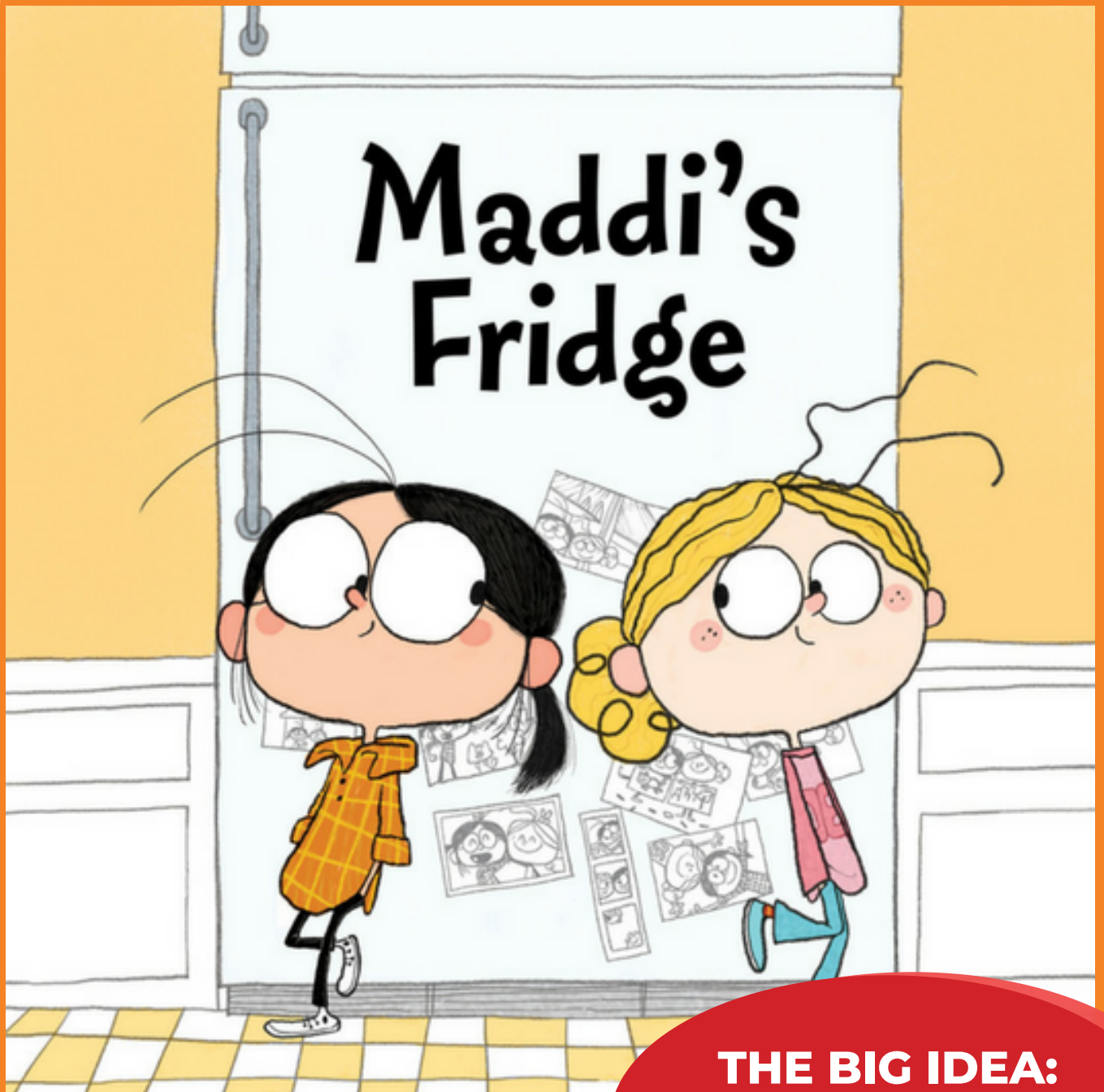




THE BIG IDEA:

Lessons in Friendship

BY ANNE NEGRI

ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK BY
LOIS BRANDT

DIRECTED BY **JENNY MILLINGER**

WHAT THE PLAY IS ABOUT



Best friends Sofia and Maddi live in the same neighborhood, go to the same school, and play in the same park. But when Sofia learns a secret about Maddi's fridge, she's faced with a difficult decision: to keep her promise or tell her parents about Maddi's empty fridge. Based on the book by Lois Brandt, this heartwarming and hilarious play is a story about honesty, sensitivity and instilling important lessons in friendship, empathy and helping others!

TALK ABOUT IT

Start a conversation before the show:

- ★ Can you think of an example of when you've helped someone? What did you do? How did it feel? How do you know when someone needs your help?
- ★ Have you ever made a promise to a friend? Was it ever in your friend's best interest to break the promise? Can any good ever come from breaking a promise?

Start a conversation after the show:

- ★ What was the main problem or conflict in the play? Did it get solved and if so, how?
- ★ How can we tell that Maddi and Sophia are best friends? What does being a friend mean to you?
- ★ Sophia tries to keep Maddi's secret but ends up telling Luis. Why does she do that? When a friend tells you a secret, should you always keep it a secret? Why or why not?
- ★ Maddi is a strong rock climber. What are your strengths on the playground? What do you do well? Do you share these skills with others? How?
- ★ If there were a sequel to this story, what would it be? What might happen next in the lives of Maddi, Sophia, Luis, and Pepito?

WRITE ABOUT IT

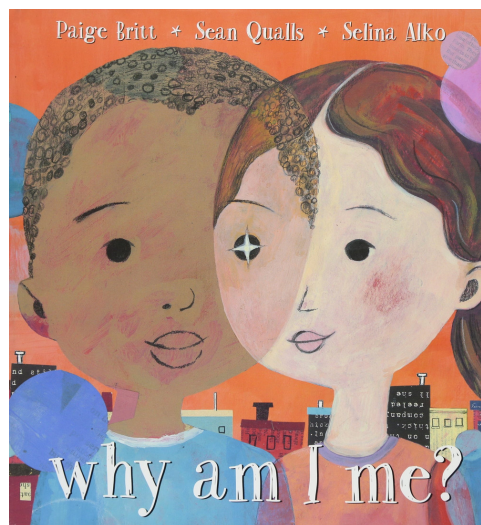
Journal entry or free-writing prompts for before or after the show:

- ★ Sophia is fearful about climbing the rock wall but keeps trying and overcomes her fear. What is something you are afraid to do? What are you doing to try and overcome your fear? What is something that you used to be afraid of but no longer are?
- ★ Sometimes it is difficult to ask for help. Can you think of a time when you needed help with a problem? Did you ask for help? How did you ask? What was the outcome?

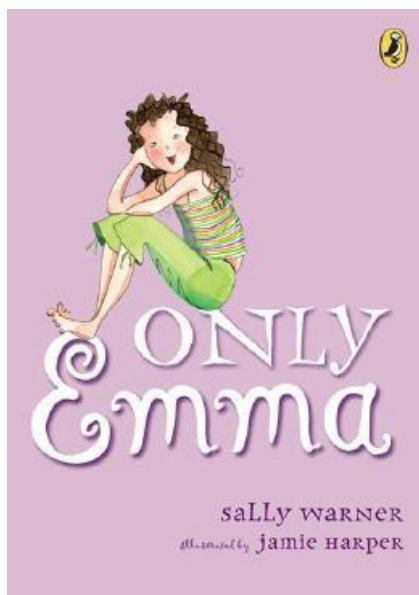
Our amazing volunteer librarian Sharon Ewers has put together a great list of books connected to ideas and themes in *Maddi's Fridge*.

READ ABOUT IT

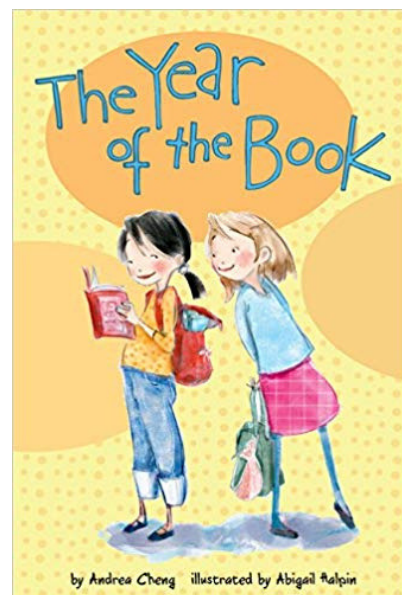
Find the full list by going to <https://tinyurl.com/y29pharv> and clicking Booklist



Why Am I Me
by Paige Britt
Picture book, grades K-2



Only Emma
by Sally Warner
Chapter book, grades 2-4



Year of the Book
by Andrea Cheng
Chapter book, grades 4-6

EXPLORE IT

Close Reading Activity: Actors as Close Readers...

Theatre is a collection of choices. A choice is an artistic decision that is made to highlight a component of the character's personality, the story, or the theme. An actor's job is to draw evidence from the text to make choices that bring characters to life on stage.

Activity: Reading for Emotional Context

The next page of this document contains a scene from *Maddi's Fridge*. Read, or have the students read, one or more sections. Work together to decide on vocal and physical choices based on the text. Discuss what the text is talking about and put it on it's feet to help students grasp the concepts. Play around with different choices to see how the meaning changes. When making choices, think about pacing (fast or slow), pitch (high or low), emotion (what the character is feeling), and subtext (underlying meaning). Share with others!

The following scene is from *Maddi's Fridge* by Anne Negri to be used for educational purposes only. Words in *italics* are stage directions.

At the rock climbing wall. SOFIA and MADDI enter. SOFIA is carrying her backpack.

SOFIA: Oh no! I forgot to eat part of my lunch. And now I'm so full!

MADDI: What is it?

SOFIA: Just some left overs from dinner last night. Fish.

MADDI: Fish sticks?

SOFIA: No, real fish. Do you want it?

MADDI: Oh? No thanks.

SOFIA: Well, I guess I'll just have to throw it away then. *(She sighs.)* Too bad.

MADDI: Wait! I might try it. If, if you're sure you aren't going to eat it?

SOFIA: I'm not. It's extra.

MADDI: *(MADDI approaches. SOFIA unzips her backpack.)* What's that smell?

SOFIA: Not me. *(SOFIA sniffs the air and wrinkles her nose. She sniffs her armpit.)*

MADDI: *(MADDI sniffs her armpits.)* Don't look at me!

SOFIA: I don't know. *(SOFIA reaches into her backpack, pulls out the baggie of fish and holds it up.)*

MADDI: OH NO!!!!

SOFIA: IT'S THE FISH!!! *(SOFIA doesn't know what to do with it. She holds it out as far as she can with one arm. She pinches her nose closed with her other hand. MADDI holds her nose too.)*

SOFIA: Its worse than a dumpster!!!!

MADDI: Its worse than a garbage truck!!!!

SOFIA: Its worse than a dumpster and a garbage truck COMBINED!!!!

MADDI: I AM NOT EATING THAT!

LEARN ABOUT IT

Food Insecurity¹

IN AMERICA TODAY:

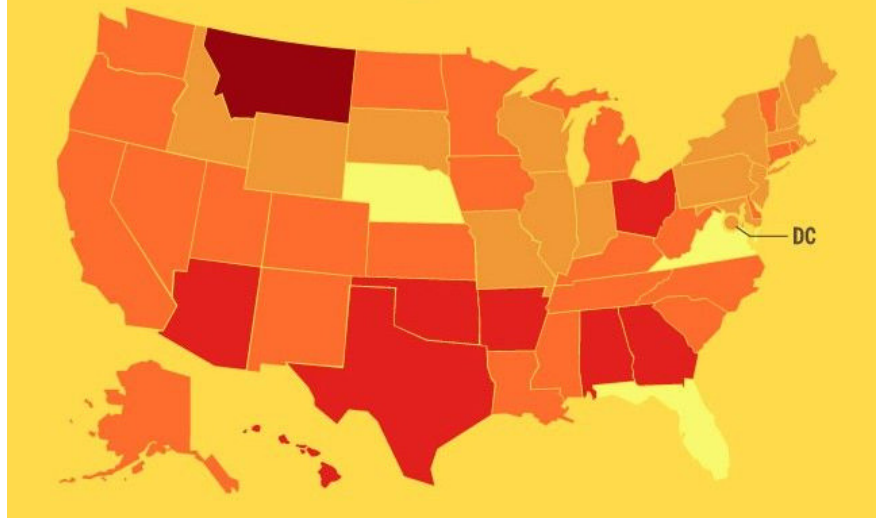
- **49 million people are food insecure**, meaning they do not always know where their next meal is coming from.
- **1 in 6** Americans struggles with hunger each year.
- **Nearly 16 million—or 1 in 5—children** in America struggle with hunger.
- **54%** of the households served by the Feeding America network were **employed** within the last year. “Hungry” doesn’t equal “homeless” or “unemployed”.

Discover how you can help by finding and connecting with your local food bank through the food bank finder found on **feedingamerica.org**!



State by State

PREVALENCE OF FOOD-INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS



Asking for Help²

Asking for help, no matter how big or small the issue might be, is often hard to do and takes courage. Here are some things to keep in mind when you want to ask for help:

- **Try to solve challenges** on your own first, then ask for help.
- **Think what might happen** if you don’t get help—or if you do.
- **Decide what the problem is** and what help you need.
- **Choose who you can ask** for help—someone you trust and who will know how to help.
- **Prepare what you’ll say** when you ask for help, then ask. It can be helpful to write it out.

Remember it is a sign of strength, not weakness, to ask for help! Getting help when you need it is part of being responsible, to yourself.

1. More information at <https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/take-action/talk-about-hunger/toolkit-to-talk-to-children.pdf>

2. More information at <https://www.goodcharacter.com/elementaryschool/asking-for-help/>

ENGAGE WITH IT

Explore these standards-based activities!

- ★ **Literacy: Craft and Structure (5.RL.6)** How do Maddi and Sophia see situations differently? Write a journal entry from each character's point of view describing the day Sophia brought fish to school in her backpack. Think about what each character wanted to happen and how they felt at the end. Remember the event from each character's point of view including humorous moments and inner thoughts. Share.
- ★ **21st Century Learning: Solve Problems (K-12)** In teams of 3-5, discuss ways to eliminate hunger and food insecurities in your community. Each group creates a plan of action that they can present to the rest of the class. Include the name of the plan, a one sentence slogan or catch phrase, and an outline of the plan and goals.
- ★ **Health: Asking for Help (3-5.S4.C3.PO1)** Inflate 6 balloons. Ask students to form a circle and have one volunteer (or two) stand in the middle. One at a time, toss the balloons into the circle. The person in the middle needs to keep the balloons from touching the ground without help from anyone in the circle. The volunteer must ask for help if they need it. They can ask a specific person or make a general plea for help. As a variation, students in the circle can offer to help and volunteer responds with "yes, please," and so on. **Reflect** on the activity and helping.

CONNECTION TO STANDARDS

Literacy: Craft and Structure (5.RL.6) Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.

Health: (3-5.S4.C3.PO1) Asking for Help

21st Century Skills: Solve Problems (K-12)

#SHAREWITHUS

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#ChildsplayAZ

#MaddisFridge



ABOUT CHILDSPLAY

Childsplay is a nonprofit professional theatre company of adult actors who perform for young audiences and families.

Our Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content, or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love, and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, those hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future.

For more information:

www.childsplayaz.org